DC

9

THE FLASH

SPURRIER
PÉREZ
GEORGIEV
HERMS

PéREZ
2024

13+
TEEN

DAWN OF DC

FLASH IN THE HAND

THE AWARD-WINNING ANTHOLOGY IS BACK, CELEBRATING THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY ACROSS THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

DC PRIDE 2024

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MAY

100 PAGES OF ALL-NEW STORIES!

"YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE.

"Hehhh. PRETEND ALL YOU LIKE, BARRY. BUT WE KNOW YOU KNOW.

"YOU'RE NOT LIKE FIERY LITTLE WALLY. HE'S A DOER. A TRYER. Hehh! YOU'RE A THINKER.

"JUST LIKE YOUR DAY JOB, BARRY-- YOU GOT A FORENSIC BRAIN. YA JUST CAN'T STOP PICKING.

"Pick pick pick PICK pick.

"OUR OPINION? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO ACQUAINTED WITH DEATH.

WAN

FOR CRIMES AGAINST REALITY

"BEEN THERE, DONE THAT. NEVER A SACRIFICE YOU WOULDN'T MAKE OR A BEATING YOU WOULDN'T TAKE. ALL FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

"AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GONNA GIVE IN, BARRY. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GONNA QUIT.

"THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE TO HELL, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW..."

Kn... know what...?

Hehh! THAT YOU CAN'T WIN. BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE.

SSSSSSSAY THE NAMES.

...EOBARD THAWNE...

...HUNTER Z-ZOLOMON...

...EDWARD CLARISS...

...HUNTER Z-ZOLOMON...

...EOBARD THAWNE...

...HUNTER Z-ZOLOMON...

...EDWARD CLARISS...

Hehhh! THOSE AND-- OH! SO MANY MORE!

...HUNTER Z-ZOLOMON...

...EDWARD CLARISS...

A BILLION OF **US** FROM A BILLION PARALLELS. **"REVERSE-FLASHES"**-- *Ha!* AS IF **RUNNING BACKWARD** IS THE WORST NEMESIS YOU CAN IMAGINE.

WE DON'T **REVERSE,** BARRY. WE **END.** WE END **YOUS.** WE END **WORLDS.**

ALONE? WE STUMBLE THROUGH OUR ANGRY LITTLE LIVES LIKE SHRAPNEL, SHREDDING HISTORY. WE ARE THE GHOSTS OF THOSE WHO **ERASED THEMSELVES** FROM THE TIME STREAM.

WE END **OURSELVES.**

BUT **OHHHH**-- THE **ARC ANGLES!** THEY RESCUED US FROM THE **DRIP-TRAY** OF COSMIC SELF-HARM! THEY THREADED US TOGETHER!

A **KNOT** OF PARADOXES. A TEMPORAL **TANGLE.** A **CROWN OF THAWNES.**

THEY SET A STRANGE ATTRACTOR TO DRAW US THROUGH-- TO **HERE!** TO **NOW!**

BECAUSE **WE** KNOW SOMETHING YOU NEVER LEARNED.

ALL. THINGS. END.

...HUNTER Z-ZOLOMON...

...EOBARD THAWNE...

...EDWARD CLARISS...

SSSSEEEEE FOR YOURSELF. LOOK WHERE WE'VE **BROUGHT** YOU.

YEAH, *uh-huh*-- THERE IN **FIVE,** HON-- I'LL GET US COFFEE ON THE WAY. STILL **DECAF,** RIGHT?

Hhh... hhh... IRIS...?

--**HURT** HER--

--**HURT** HER--

I... I WON'T **HURT** HER... I W--

--**HURT** HER--

--**HURT** HER--

YOU'LL DO WHATEVER WE **SAY,** LITTLE WORM.

DO YOU HAVE ANY **IDEA** HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE KILLED HER?

HOW MANY **DEAD BRIDES** AND **BROKEN BABIES**-- *spines popping like bubble wrap--* JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION?

NO MORE, BARRY. NO MORE THINKING IN STRAIGHT LINES. NO MORE DEFINING OURSELVES ACCORDING TO **YOU.**

TODAY THERE'S A **BIGGER** LESSON TO LEARN...

NONE OF THIS IS **ABOUT** YOU.

PILGRIM...?

PILGRIM-- I THINK I **FOUND** HIM!

WHAT? FOUND **WHO?**

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING, JUST LIKE YOU SAID--RESHAPING **DIMENSIONS** USING THE **SPEED FORCE** AS A TOOL--

Wait, JAI-- THAT'S **NOT** WHAT I SAID-- I ONLY BROUGHT YOU HERE WHILE I WAS BRIEFING **HARTLEY** ON--

--AND **THEN** I THOUGHT, WHAT IF I USED ONE OF YOUR TAME **SPIDERS** TO MAKE A **SCANNER?** DID YOU KNOW THEIR **WEB** IS BASICALLY **CONGEALED SPACE-TIME?**

K-k-kid, whoa-- TH-THE **WIDOWS** ARE EXTRADIMENSIONAL COSMIC PROJECTIONS. YOU CAN'T JUST--

--AND IT **WORKED.**

I FOUND DAD.

KINDA DIFFICULT TO **MAINTAIN** THE LINK. THAT **PLACE**-- *It's like...*LIKE IT DOESN'T **EXIST.** *Like...*IT'S MADE OF **IMAGINARY MATH...**

Urgh. YOU MEAN IT'S... **...CONCEPTUAL...?**

WHAT'S WITH THE STATUES?

DUNNO. HE'S BEEN MOVING THEM SO THEY FACE **AWAY,** BUT-- **THAT** ONE KEEPS TURNING BACK. I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT.

WHO EVEN **IS** THAT?

TVOK

AAAAH!

S-sorry. LOST THE LINK.

JAI... **QUIT** FOR A WHILE, OKAY? GO HAVE A DONUT.

HARTLEY AND I GOT A SUCKY **JOB** TO DO BACK ON THE MIDDLE FREQUENCY, BUT... THERE ARE THINGS HERE I DON'T WANT YOU TO S--

THIS PLACE IS A **MAZE,** KID. HE DOESN'T WANT YOU GETTING LOST.

Right. *Exactly.* DON'T GO ANYWHERE.

SPLB

SPLB

STOP **STRUGGLING,** BARRY. IT MAKES **NO** DIFFERENCE.

LOOOOOK. YOU AIN'T THE **ONLY** ONE WITH A WEAK SPOT.

I-IS THAT...

LINDA! WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME TO WALLY'S **WIFE?**

Hehh! SHE'S NOT HIS **ANYTHING!** NOT ANY-MORE!

THE ANGLES AND THEIR **AGENTS...** THEY TOOK ALL HER **BABY BLUES** AND THEY DIALED THEM UP...

...USED THEM TO **SUFFOCATE** HER...

LITTLE LINDA'S A **GHOST** NOW. ALL HER **LOVE**-- DROWNED IN **NUMBNESS.**

WH-WHAT ARE YOU M-MAKING ME **DO?!**

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH **EFFORT** THEY'VE PUT IN? GRODD AND THE REST? ALL THAT **SUBTLETY** AND **STAGE MANAGEMENT...**

PFAH!

THEY THINK **LEAVING HER** LIKE THIS WILL HELP PREPARE THE **VESSEL**-- THEIR HOLY WEAPON!-- BUT...I SAY--

NONONONO--

--THERE'S A QUICKER WAY.

HEY LINDA, I GOT YOUR COFF--

...BARRY?

NyyAAAAAAA--

--I WILL--

NO NO I WON'T I WON'T I won't--

--I WILL--

--I WILL--

--I WILL--

--I WILL--

I-IRIS, G-G-GET OUTTA HERE...

Ah. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE. EVIL TAKING CONTROL OF THE HERO'S MIND, etc., etc.

R-RUN! BOTH OF YOU! WHY WON'T YOU R--

BARRY ALLEN. YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT IF YOU GET FLIPPED, RUNNING'S POINTLESS. I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE, THANK YOU.

NOW-- HAND ME MY GODSON, LINDA.

I GOT A DRIBBLE-PROOF SWEATER SPECIALLY, AND-- no offense-- YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE THE BREAK.

Uh... S-SURE, BUT... WHAT IF...

--I WILL--

STILL STRUGGLING? I EXPECTED BETTER, PAL. I THOUGHT YOU'D SEE THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

WHAT'S LEFT FOR YOU, huh? THE WORLD HATES YOU... YOUR FAMILY'S SCATTERED AND SHUNNED...

...THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL ENDING IN THE WORKS, BARRY-- IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE IT. WE ALL HAVE OUR PART TO PLAY. I'M JUST HELPING YOU FIND YOURS.

No? Well. GO ON, THEN. WARN THEM. I'LL LET YOU. MY LITTLE GIFT.

He'll beat it, sweetie.

AND... IF HE DOESN'T?

Eh.

THEN IT'LL BE OVER BEFORE WE KNOW IT'S STARTED.

Huh.

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP.

WE'RE IN BAD SHAPE, PAL.

TITANS. HEROES IN GENERAL. YOU ***SPEEDSTERS*** MOST OF ALL. I'D SAY WE'RE BACKED UP AGAINST THE ***WALL*** IF THE ***PUN*** DIDN'T MAKE ME SICK.

THIS THING BETWEEN ME AND BRUCE, THAT'S ONLY ***JUST*** STARTING TO THAW. SOMETHING'S MADE MY ***BALANCE*** GO SCREWY. AND ***WORST?*** RIGHT WHEN IT WAS ALL GOING TO HELL...?

...MY ***FRIEND*** WAS IN THE WIND.

WHERE THE $#@¢ HAVE YOU ***BEEN,*** WALLY?

THE ***OTHER*** STATUES CAN BE TURNED AWAY. EASILY ***DISTRACTED,*** I GUESS. BUT ***YOURS*** KEEPS TURNING BACK. I FIGURE WE GOTTA BE ***CLOSE*** SOMEHOW. WAS I RIGHT?

S-statues? WALLY, WHAT ARE Y--

DOESN'T MATTER. PLEASE. WHOEVER YOU ARE-- **STOP THINKING ABOUT ME.**

EVEN IF THE **OTHER** ONE-- B-something... Benny? Barry? EVEN IF HE **HADN'T** TOLD ME-- HADN'T TRIED TO **STOP** ME... I'D **KNOW.**

I'M THE **PROBLEM.** TRY TO JUGGLE A THOUSAND BALLS, EVENTUALLY YOU'RE GONNA DROP 'EM. IT'S NOT THE **BALLS'** FAULT.

I HAVE TO **DISAPPEAR.** I HAVE TO SHUT MYSELF AWAY, WHERE I CAN'T HURT THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

I CAN'T COUNT ON **MYSELF** ANYMORE.

YOU ONCE TOLD ME, **CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS-- AND THE THINGS YOU LOOK AT WILL CHANGE.**

Wally...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEEN **DONE** TO YOU, BUT YOU'RE THE BEST **FATHER,** BEST **HUSBAND,** AND BEST **FRIEND** I EVER MET--

--AND I'M **BEGGING** YOU TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THIS, WHATEVER IT IS. BECAUSE I THINK YOU **KNOW,** DEEP DOWN, BETTER THAN ANYONE--

--PEOPLE ARE ALL PEOPLE HAVE.

Goodbye, Dick. It's been an honor.

Knew you remembered me. I'll see you again, Wally.

Count on **that.**

YOU OKAY, LINDA? LISTEN... FEELING ***DOWN*** AFTER A BABY, THAT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

DOWN? *N-no.* NO, IT'S NOT THAT. MAYBE THAT'S HOW IT STARTED, BUT... ***NOW?***

EVEN THOUGH EVERY DAY'S LIKE WATCHING THE WORLD END--

--I DON'T REALLY FEEL ***ANYTHING.***

--COULDA BEEN--

--COULDA BEEN--

--COULDA

IRIS LOOKS ***GOOD*** WITH A KID-- DON'T YOU THINK? TASTE OF WHAT ***COULDA BEEN,*** *huh?*

IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T TOO BUSY ***SACRIFICING.*** *Hehh!* SAVING THE MULTIVERSE! MAYBE WE ***OUGHTA*** KILL HER FIRST AFTER ALL, *huh?* GET IT ***OVER*** WITH.

You...

...DO NOT...

...RULE...

...ME...

RRRRF! THE MORE YA ***FIGHT,*** THE MORE IT'S GONNA ***HURT!*** YOU THINK WE DON'T HAVE ***BACKUP,*** BARRY?

ABRA! ABRA, YOU ***FRAUD!*** QUIT HIDING BETWEEN THE ***FREQUENCIES*** AND GET OUT HERE!

WHAT *IS* IT, THAWNE? WE PUT YOU INTO HIS HEAD TO KEEP YOU ***OUT*** OF TROUBLE-- NOT ***MAKE*** IT.

Please. WE ALL NAMED OUR PRICE, KADABRA-- OR SHOULD I ASK WHY YOU'RE STILL MINDFLAYING THE ***BRUNETTE?*** QUIT WHINING AND HELP ME ***SUBDUE*** THIS ***SAVAGE.***

--RULE ME--

--RULE ME--

--RULE ME--

Hmph. VERY WELL.

SHEEEEP

Uh-- LADIES?

MY NAME'S INSPECTOR PILGRIM. THIS IS GOING TO SOUND, *well,* ***AWFUL,*** BUT... I NEED TO TAKE THAT BABY. *Uh.* FOR ITS OWN SAFETY.

I BROUGHT ALONG A ***MUTUAL FRIEND*** TO REASSURE YOU THAT--

PIPER!

BARRY?

R-R-R-RIGHT ***THERE!*** H-H-H-HPYNOTIC ***TONE!*** D-DISRUPT THE FREQUENCY! YOU CAN'T SEE HIM! HE-HE'S BEEN BREAKING LINDA'S MIND!

HARTLEY, BARRY'S PART OF THE ***PROBLEM!*** WE SHOULD BE ***ARRESTING*** HIM, NOT--

FLASH SAYS, I DO.

YAAAA!

Uhm.

=Koff=

M-M-MS. PARK-WEST, I-- I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE ***PERFECT*** MOMENT, BUT-- *uhm*--I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ***O-OBSERVING*** YOU LATELY AND-- *w-well*--

--I'D LIKE TO OFFER THIS TOKEN OF MY ***DEEP AFFECTION,*** IN THE HOPE OF--

THWAP

...
...
NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS $@#% ABOUT TAKING MY BABY?
SHE'S BAAACK!
Y-your eyes... I...I know th--
WADE WILL BE SAFE WITH ME. YOU KNOW THAT. Please.
IT'S EITHER ME OR WALLER.
LINDA? LINDA, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT-- WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, JUST W--
THANK YOU, IRIS, BUT... ACTUALLY I'M THINKING CLEARLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS.
KEEP HIM SAFE. AND-- KEEP TELLING HIM. EVERY HOUR UNTIL IT'S OVER. TELL HIM I LOVE HIM.
TELL HIM TO TRUST IN THE ONE THING WE'VE ALL FORGOTTEN.
DADDY WILL COME.
EVERYTHING'S FINE WHEN THE FAMILY'S WHOLE.

That's it. Th-that's the last piece. IT'S **WALLY.**

ALL THIS EFFORT. **ISOLATING** HIM. PUSHING HIM **AWAY. WOUNDING** HIM WITH...

...Damn. That knife. Did... Did I attack him? Why did you make me *do* that?

--ATTACK HIM--

--ATTACK HIM--

--ATTACK HIM--

--ATTACK HIM--

ENOUGH! KILL THEM! **KILL THEM ALL!**

Nah.

Y'know-- YOU WERE **RIGHT.** I **AM** FORENSIC. NEVER A **SACRIFICE** I WOULDN'T MAKE OR A **BEATING** I WOULDN'T TAKE. ALL FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

I COULD'VE KICKED YOU OUT ANY MOMENT SINCE I REALIZED WHO YOU ARE. BUT YOU **DO** SO LOVE TO **MONOLOGUE.**

THANKS FOR ALL THE **INFO.**

No. **NO,** YOUR LIFE IS MINE! I AM THE **ANTI-YOU!**

--ANTI-YOU--

YOU'RE A **MESS.** ALL OF YOU. YOU CAN SCREW WITH MY **HEAD** ALL YOU LIKE-- YOU'LL NEVER OWN MY HEART.

IT'S GOT SOMEONE ELSE'S **NAME** ON IT.

NOW GET THE $@%& OUTTA MY MAN!

I ASSUME ***YOU'RE*** THE ONE WHO'S BEEN KIDNAPPING SPEEDSTERS?

I-I-I ***ASSURE*** YOU, OUR INTENTIONS ARE PURE! I HAVE ***COMPELLING*** DATA, WHICH--

YOUR DATA'S ***WRONG.***

THERE'S A CONSPIRACY OF ROGUES. THEY'RE MANIPULATING EVERYTHING. THEY KEEP TALKING ABOUT... A ***WEAPON.*** THEY'RE GETTING IT READY.

I THINK THEY MEAN ***WALLY.***

THEY'RE BEING ***BACKED*** BY-- *I dunno*, THEY MUST MEAN ***ARCH-ANGELS,*** BUT... THEY SAID IT ***STRANGELY,*** LIKE--

FLASH.

IN LIGHT OF EVIDENCE FROM THE ***BUREAU OF SOVEREIGNTY,*** YOU ARE ASKED TO SURRENDER.

ASKED? WHY THE WARNING BEFORE YOU SHOT?

SO THAT YOU CAUGHT THE MISSILE. IT IS NOW AFFIXED TO YOUR HAND. IT WILL DETONATE IN TEN SECONDS.

FLASH? WHO IS IT?

I DUNNO. SOMEONE WHO WANTS ME TO GET CLEAR OF **CIVILIANS**, I GUESS. **Damn.** I hate fighting nice people.

GO. GET WADE TO SAFETY!

PILGRIM! PILGRIM, YOU'VE GOT SOME **EXPLAINING** TO DO!

Uh-oh.

Will you two be okay?

'COURSE! LINDA'S GOT HER **FIRE** BACK-- ALL SHE NEEDS NOW IS HER **HUSBAND.** I'LL STAY WITH **HER.** YOU FIND **HIM.**

GET **TO** IT, HOTSHOT.

He teleported right here, sir. We think one of his ***meat puppets*** is in the vents.

WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN **DOING** TO ALL THESE SPEE**OHMYGOD IS THAT WADE?!**

ALL RIGHT, MYSTERY MAN-- THE STICKY BOMB WAS A CUTE TOUCH, BUT I GOT ***VIBRATIONAL INTANGIBILITY.***

AND HEY-- *not to brag--* I JUST KICKED A ***PARASITIC PARADOX*** OUT OF MY BRAIN. YOU REALLY THINK YOU GOT **GAME?**

YWOOM

WHY THE **HECK** HAVE YOU GOT MY **BABY BROTHER?!** WHERE'S MY **MOM,** YOU SICK PIECE OF--

YOUR MOM'S **FINE.** AND NOTHING BAD'S GONNA HAPPEN TO **WADE.** I CAN GUARANTEE THAT, JAI. JUST BY BEING HERE.

SHOOSH

AAAAOOW!

GOT GAME.

Hhhh. THE **MISSION** I GOT FROM THE ARC ANGLES-- THEY TOLD ME TO WIPE OUT **ALL SPEEDSTERS** TO SAVE THE MULTIVERSE.

BUT... I HAD TO FIND SOME **OTHER** WAY. HOW COULD I MURDER MY **OWN?**

IMPRESSIVE **REACTION** TIME. NOT SO QUICK ON YOUR **FEET,** BUT-- YOU'RE **TAGGING ALONG.**

Ah. AN **ENERGY TETHER.** GROUNDING EXCESS **SPEED FORCE** TO HIDE IN MY ENERGY SHADOW. **SMART.**

BUT LET'S DO THIS **FACE-TO-FACE,** *huh?*

I'M **HIM,** JAI. WE'RE BOTH **WADE.** WE'RE BOTH YOUR BROTHER.

AND WE'RE NOT GONNA LET OUR FAMILY DIE.

FINE.

FOR *OLD TIMES' SAKE,* FLASH.

Batman...?

FACE-TO-FACE IT IS.

ISSUE NINE: "THE CROWN"

WRITTEN BY
SIMON SPURRIER

ART BY
RAMÓN PÉREZ
& VASCO GEORGIEV

COLORS BY
MATT HERMS

LETTERED BY
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

COVER BY
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VARIANT COVERS BY
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VARIANT COVER BY
JESSICA FONG

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TO BE CONTINUED...

DC Comics Presents

RAMONA & ME

Brittany Holzherr Writer **June Brigman** Penciller **Roy Richardson** Inker **Trish Mulvihill** Colorist **Janice Chiang** Letterer

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT WORKING IN COMICS IS DISCOVERING ASPECTS OF ITS HISTORY YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE. SOME PEOPLE SAY WOMEN ARE FINALLY MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN, BUT THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG. WOMEN HAVE ***ALWAYS*** BEEN IN COMICS-- YOU JUST NEEDED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

BACK IN 2017, OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MARIE JAVINS, FOUND HERSELF AT BALTIMORE COMIC-CON IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LEGENDARY ***RAMONA FRADON,*** WHO WAS DELIGHTING CROWDS OF FANS WITH HER COMMISSIONS.

RAMONA WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN 91 AND HADN'T LOST A STEP IN HER ART. MARIE AND I IMMEDIATELY AGREED THAT RAMONA SHOULD BE WORKING AT DC AGAIN. AN EMAIL LED TO A PHONE CALL AND THE REST WAS HISTORY.

ALWAYS PROMPT BUT HER OWN WORST CRITIC, RAMONA CONSISTENTLY APOLOGIZED FOR HER "LAZINESS" EVEN AS SHE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TURN IN SKETCHES FOR REVIEW ALONG WITH A HILARIOUS POLITICAL CARTOON. I COULDN'T HELP BUT RUN THE ART AROUND THE OFFICE AND SHARE IN LAUGHS WITH MY COWORKERS AS WE MARVELED AT HER TALENT.

COVID CAME AND TURNED THE WORLD AND COMICS UPSIDE DOWN. AS MUCH AS THE PANDEMIC TORE US APART, IT ALSO BROUGHT SOME OF US CLOSER, SERVING AS A REMINDER OF HOW IMPORTANT COMPANIONSHIP IS.

RAMONA AND I STAYED IN TOUCH AND EVENTUALLY SHE INVITED ME OVER. IN ANTICIPATION, I ASKED HER IF SHE MISSED ANY FOOD FROM HER TIME LIVING IN MANHATTAN. SHE IMMEDIATELY ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC DESSERT. TO SATISFY HER FAMOUS SWEET TOOTH, I DROVE UPSTATE WITH SFOGLIATELLA IN HAND.

RAMONA GREETED ME LIKE A ***LONG-LOST FRIEND,*** WHICH LED TO MANY MORE VISITS. WE IMMEDIATELY BONDED OVER OUR SHARED LOVE OF COMIC STRIPS AND THE CITY, BUT SOON THE CONVERSATION MOVED PAST COMICS AND ONTO LIFE IN GENERAL.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER THAT RAMONA WASN'T JUST AN ARTIST WITH HER PEN BUT WITH HER ***WORDS*** TOO. HER STORIES PAINTED A PICTURE OF A LIFE LIVED TO ITS FULLEST. AFTER HOURS OF TALKING--WITH OCCASIONAL PAUSES TO GIVE PETS TO HER DOG, CHARLIE--I ALWAYS LEFT RAMONA'S HOME INSPIRED AND REINVIGORATED TO MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD OF COMICS LIKE SHE DID.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024, RAMONA ANNOUNCED HER FORMAL ***RETIREMENT*** FROM DRAWING AFTER SEVENTY-PLUS YEARS IN THE BUSINESS.

DURING OUR LAST VISIT, I STRUGGLED TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY GOODBYE TO A FRIEND, BUT HER WARM SMILE SERVED AS A COMFORT. WE SPOKE OF THE FUTURE AND HOW EXCITED SHE WAS TO FINALLY SEE ***METAMORPHO*** ON THE BIG SCREEN. I'M SORRY SHE WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE, BUT I KNOW THE PARTS OF HERSELF SHE POURED INTO HER BELOVED CO-CREATION WILL SHINE THROUGH.

RAMONA WOULD ALWAYS REMARK THAT WOMEN IN COMICS WERE LARGELY OVERLOOKED, BUT WITH STORIES LIKE THIS, I HOPE THEIR MEMORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE KEPT ALIVE FOR YEARS TO COME.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS, RAMONA.

"Mom saw the whole world through her creative imagination. She could make faces and characters from trees or rocks, was awed by light playing on a wall, and saw patterns that I would never have seen. Drawing was her anchor and her best friend. She had beautiful, capable hands that could draw, build, upholster, cook, craft, and comfort. She was my Wonder Woman, for sure." – Amy Fradon

For more quotes remembering Ramona, please visit: DC.com/remembering-ramona

UP, UP, AND AWAY!

Debuting in
JUNE

MY ADVENTURES WITH SUPERMAN

Written by
My Adventures with Superman
producer/writer
JOSIE CAMPBELL

Art by
PABLO M COLLAR

Covers by
My Adventures with Superman
character designers
CARLI SQUITIERI
and
LI CREE

A six-issue comic book series bridging seasons one and two of the hit **[adult swim]** show

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN: GOTHAM by GASLIGHT

THE · KRYPTONIAN · AGE

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY DIGGLE

DC returns to Elseworlds with an all-new lineup of series starring DC's greatest heroes and villains, in fantastic settings far beyond the DC Universe. Beginning in June with *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight – The Kryptonian Age*, the sequel to the Elseworlds classic *Gotham by Gaslight* by Brian Augustyn and Mike Mignola, fans are invited into familiar and fresh takes on the heroes you know...in worlds you don't. DC Nation sat down with Andy Diggle, the writer of *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight – The Kryptonian Age*, to discuss the series.

Why do you think the original *Gotham by Gaslight* has endured and is still being discovered by fans after so many years?

The Gothic setting of the 19th century is just such a great fit for Batman. He really lends himself to that shadowy, smog-choked, gaslit world. Mike Mignola's art really leans into Batman's primal, monster-lurking-in-the-dark vibe. It's perfect. You can strip away all the modern high-tech gadgets, and Batman is still Batman. He's timeless.

This story expands the *Gotham by Gaslight* world beyond Gotham. How is this specific 19th-century setting informing the formation of the Justice League?

I'm having a lot of fun reinventing iconic heroes and villains, and I'm thrilled that DC is giving us so much creative freedom. That's what Elseworlds is all about, after all. For example, Paradise Island isn't located where you might expect. I'm having a blast cooking up the new secret history of the Amazons, and how it intersects with the lost legacy of the Kryptonians. Some of the heroes will be quite far apart geographically, and it won't be immediately apparent how all their plots intersect. John Constantine is one of the people who figure out how to connect the dots.

What does the subtitle *The Kryptonian Age* mean in regards to the story you're telling?

I don't want to spoil anything up front, but it's revealed in the first issue that the Kryptonian Age is an archaeological fringe theory of an ancient lost civilization like Atlantis. It's not taken seriously by respectable scholars...until things start getting weird. The Carrington Event solar flare of 1859, and the Great Meteor of 1860, triggered a sequence of events that comes to a head in 1893, when something very ancient starts to...wake up.

What has the collaboration with artist Leandro Fernandez been like?

Leo's an absolute joy to work with. Sometimes you just click with an artist. We met in London to discuss the project, and it was immediately clear that we both wanted to approach it the same way. He just gets where I'm coming from, and his art brings it to life more beautifully than I could even have imagined. Gorgeous work. He's a natural-born storyteller.

DON'T MISS
***BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT – THE KRYPTONIAN AGE* #1, ON SALE THIS DECEMBER!**

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS VP – Editor-in-Chief JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer ANNE DePIES Senior VP & General Manager LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing & Production LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Publishing & Business Operations NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing

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